

QUARTERLY NARRATIVE REPORTS FOR THE

SULLYS HILL WILDLIFE REFUGE

1939

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SULLYS HILL (and Essences)
District #2

QUARTERLY NARRATIVE REPORTS

FEBRUARY 1939 - JANUARY 1940

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
BUREAU OF BIOLOGICAL SURVEY

February 19, 1940.

Mr. Wesley D. Parker,
Sullys Hill National Game Preserve,
Fort Totten, North Dakota.

Dear Parker:

You are to be commended on the excellent narrative report just received from Sullys Hill. The delineation of the refuge work set forth and the photographs are excellent. The picture of the buck deer is especially outstanding. This office should have the negative of this and the buffalo pictures.

I am very glad to see that the regional office is continuing the work of cutting brush to improve browse on the area. I think this work should be carried along consistently, as from your photographs you seem to be getting results.

Apparently the patrolman handling the easement refuges under your supervision is doing worthwhile work.

Please keep up this excellent record.

Very truly yours,

JCS:nbw

J. Clark Salyer II,
Chief,
Division of Wildlife Refuges.

CC: Mr. Maurek

IN REPLY REFER TO

Sullys Hill

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF BIOLOGICAL SURVEY

406 Post Office Building
Omaha, Nebraska
February 9, 1940

Chief, Bureau of Biological Survey
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

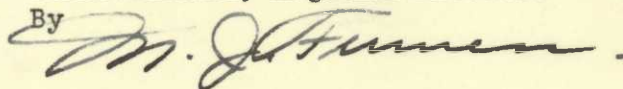
There is enclosed quarterly narrative report for the Sullys Hill Game Preserve and Easement Refuges in District #2, North Dakota, for the period November 1, 1939 to January 31, 1940, submitted by Mr. Wesley D. Parker, Refuge Manager.

Quarterly grain report for the same period is also enclosed.

Very truly yours,

Burnie Maurek, Regional Director

By



M. J. Furness
Sr. Administrative Assistant

Enclosures



UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF BIOLOGICAL SURVEY

406 Post Office Building
Omaha, Nebraska
February 9, 1940

IN REPLY, REFER TO

Suljva Hill

Chief, Bureau of Biological Survey

Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

There is enclosed quarterly narrative report for the
Suljva Hill Game Preserve and Reservoir in District #2,
North Dakota, for the period November 1, 1939 to January 31,
1940, submitted by Mr. Wesley D. Parker, Refuge Manager.
Quarterly grain report for the same period is also

enclosed.

Very truly yours,

Burnie Maurer, Regional Director

By

M. J. Furness
Sr. Administrative Assistant

Enclosures



NARRATIVE REPORT

SULLYS HILL NATIONAL GAME PRESERVE

Nov. 1, 1939 - Jan. 31, 1940.

By - Wesley D. Parker, Agent,
and Erwin Torkildson, Laborer Patrolman.
Sullys Hill National Game Preserve,
Ft. Totten, N. Dak.

NARRATIVE REPORT FOR THE SULLYS HILL NATIONAL GAME PRESERVE.

Period - November 1, 1939 - January 31, 1940.

WEATHER - During November and two thirds of December we had very mild weather. We had no snow that stayed on the ^{ground until} just before Christmas. By the end of January we had on the ground about 4" of dry snow. Very few of the days have been cold. It was quite cold on a few of the mornings but on those days the sun shine warmed everything up much by noon. According to the Devils Lake Weather Bureau we received the following moisture as shown below:

	Normal Moisture	Received	Short	Snow Received.
November	.72"	.09	.63	trace
December	.54"	.35	.19	2"
January	.47"	.15	.32	2.10

At the beginning of this quarterly period there was almost no moisture in the soil near the surface and the snow that we have had so far this winter will be of very little help. We did receive some snow that was wet and froze on the plowed fields and ^everything else and for that reason the dust has not been blowing this winter. The soil is dry as powder under-neath the frozen crust of soil. It is believed that the lack of moisture in the soil and there being but very little snow on the ground has much to do with the mild weather we have been having so far this winter. The springs in the pasture are still furnishing plenty of water for the buffalo, elk and deer. These animals want water rather than to eat snow if the water is where they can get it at all.

WILD LIFE - Due to the lack of moisture, the grasses in the pasture cured better than they have during the past. There was much nourishment in the grass(although it was dried up in most of places) because the game animals were

all in extra fine condition. In fact, they were all fat. All of the elk that were slaughtered, were very fat and the kidneys were covered with fat. Even the 22 and 23 year old buffalo cows that were donated to the Ft. Totten Indian Agency, had some fat on them. It was well to give these old cows away to the Indians due to their age and teeth being poor. But both of the old cows would have had calves again next spring although they were of the ages stated. The following game animals were left on the Preserve at the end of January 1940, the listed number of animals were disposed of and funds as shown were sent in to the Treasurer of the U. S. through the Bureau of Biological Survey:

Buffalo on the Preserve, Jan. 31, 1940.

- 1 - 10 year old bull, 1930 calf from Wind Cave.
- 1 - 10 year old cow, 1930 calf, raised a calf fall 1939.
- 1 - 9 " " " , 1931 calf, raised a calf fall 1939.
- 1 - 7 " " " , 1933 calf.
- 1 - 4 " " " , 1936 " .
- 2 - 3 " " " , 1937 " .
- 2 - 2 " " heifers, 1938 calves.
- 1 - 1 " " heifer, 1939 spring calf.
- 2 - fall calves 1939- one male and 1 female it is believed.

Elk on Preserve- January 31, 1940: One $2\frac{1}{2}$ year old bull elk and one $1\frac{1}{2}$ year old bull elk (spike horn-antler) and 10 other elk were left on Preserve. Of the 10 elk, there are about 4 young cows and the rest are 1939 calves. I do not know the sex of the calves. All of the elk left, are young and very fine animals. They will do better now since there are not so many of them in the elk and buffalo pasture. There are a total of 12 elk left in the pasture. I counted them a number of times. It may be that later on, we may be able to count another elk. The elk do not always stay in one herd.

Deer: There are two bucks, 10 does and two fawns on the Preserve. To the best of my knowledge, the count has been correct but the sex of the deer that do not have antlers may not be correct because at a distance, a young deer looks the same or almost the same as a mature animal. On January 30, 1940, one mature buck deer was slaughtered, the meat ^{was} given to the Indian Agency to be

given to the Indians that were in need. The hide and head have been donated to the North Dakota State Historical Society and will be shipped by express collect to Bismarck in a few days. The deer that are left, are very nice animals.

Buffalo disposed of during Nov., Dec. & Jan. 1940. Rate

3 buf. cows (ages 18, 16 & 14 yrs. each) sold at \$50.00	\$150.00
2 buffalo donated to Indian Agency for needy Indians- Animals slaughtered on Preserve.	
5 calves-4-1939 (2 males & 2 females) and one 1938 female- sold alive in corral on Preserve	\$40.00 \$200.00

Elk disposed of- same quarterly period:
(All slaughtered for Meat.)

1 mature cow elk rec. on Preserve	\$40.00	\$ 40.00
11 mature elk, dressed & del. Express Agency	\$45.00	\$495.00
5 elk under two years of age dressed "	\$40.00	<u>\$200.00</u>

Total taken in for the sale of Surplus Game Animals..... \$1085.00

Sullys Hill Patrolman and agent did all of the work slaughtering the game animals, capturing the buffalo and getting them ready for shipment except for one part of a day when we received some help from the WPA men. This does not sound like much of a job but the weather has been so mild that the elk would not go in the corral for hay and we have no way to drive them into the corral and they had to be shot in the open timbered pasture. There is a very fine herd of young elk and a very fine herd of young buffalo left on the Preserve.

Refuge Development: Almost all of the improvements that have been done on the Preserve during the period, have been done by the WPA men. An average of 14 WPA men have been working on the Preserve during each of the three months. 11 of these men are Sioux Indians. The Indians are good workers in the woods. We have a good foreman and much work has been done. 1594 yards of gravel have been hauled on the roads and trails on the Preserve. On and around the Experimental area, the following work has been done: The trees have been cleared off of about five acres to allow the sprouts to grow up to furnish food for the deer and elk;

there are many dead trees in the Experimental Area and the dead trees were removed off of about 5 acres; the wood that had been collected was piled up on 4 acres; 11 truck loads of poles for posts were hauled down to the post yard; poles were sawed up making 2100 good ash and oak posts; some wood was sawed up for use in the government garage, pump house and warming house for the WPA men; the trees were cleared out in a fence line around the experimental area for a distance of about 180 rods and the posts set; the storm windows for the patrolman's cottage were fitted and painted; 620' ~~feet~~ of 6" sewer tile were taken out of the ground, the roots were taken out of the tile at places and the tile were put back in the ditch again; the plumbing work was completed in the cottage; a fence was completed around the cottage yard; WPA men helped make the corral fence higher; 1/8 of a mile of hilly road was repaired and many other jobs were done. We have received very good co-operation from the WPA men on this Preserve and as shown above, much has been accomplished.

All has gone along well on the Preserve during the period. Due to the extra mild weather, the animals have needed but little hay compared with past years. Also, many of the animals being disposed of, less hay will be needed. The raccoons have been hibernating for the last month. Many grouse are coming on the Preserve and feeding on buds. We put out grain for the upland game birds. There are not so many cotton tail rabbits here and varying hares as on some year during the past. There are no jack rabbits that are on the Preserve unless one or two wander on to the hay meadow at times.

With the kindest of regards, I am;

Very truly yours,

Wesley D. Parker.

U. S. Game Management Agent.

P. S. In October last fall, we were supposed to have 31 elk. This number was arrived at by estimating the number of calves that we had on the Preserve last summer. But after several careful counts had been made, after the leaves had fallen off of the trees, it was found that we had only 30 elk in October. Then one $1\frac{1}{2}$ year old bull elk was found dead (he had evidently been killed by an older bull) and then only 29 elk were left on the Preserve. During this report period, 17 elk were disposed of and 12 are left on the Preserve.

During this winter period we have had no visitors. Many of the government school children used to make many visits to the picnic grounds during the winter. The school has been made a day school now and the children are hauled to the school of a morning and back home at night from the school and they do not have the time to visit the Preserve as during the past and we accordingly have not so many visitors during the winter.

During this quarterly period Mr. Gillett visited the Sullys Hill Preserve, Mr. Bach from the Bismarck office, Martin Myhre, N. Dak. State Game Warden and Patrolman Nelson was at the Preserve on Official business.



Two 1939 buffalo calves that were shipped by truck to Barrington, Illinois on Jan. 20, 1940. These animals are wild when inclosed in the corral or other small inclosure.



The total of five buffalo calves that were shipped to Illinois. In this picture as well as the one above, it can be noticed how the corral fence was raised last fall so that when elk are captured in the corral, they will not jump out.



Showing truck after the five buffalo calves had been loaded into it to be hauled to Illinois. The loading chute and part of the corral can be noticed.



A picture which shows the 17 buffalo before the 5 live animals were shipped. There are 12 very nice buffalo left at the Sullys Hill Preserve now. They are not eating much hay since there is much they can get in the pasture.



Part of Experimental Area where trees were removed last winter. The sprouts can be noticed. They made their growth all last summer.



The new highway that passes through Sullys Hill land along the Devils Lake shore. This picture was taken in January, which shows we have but very little snow.



WPA men that are working in timbered area on Sullys Hill Preserve thinning out timber and cutting out patches of about one acre size in Experimental Area.



WPA men that are loading gravel and it is being hauled out on the roads on the Preserve. Sullys Hill Preserve truck is being used and the gravel pit is inside the Preserve area.



Part of the hay that is stacked on the Preserve for the buffalo and elk on January 18, 1940.



A four year old buck deer that has posed for his picture. He comes up of a morning for grain. He lost his antlers a few days ago.

NARRATIVE REPORT
MIGRATORY WATERFOWL EASEMENT REFUGES
DISTRICT #2 NORTH DAKOTA

By: Wesley D. Parker, U. S. Agent, Sullys Hill Preserve
and Nelius B. Nelson, Laborer-Patrolman,
Lake Ardoch Refuge, Ardoch, N. Dak.

NARRATIVE REPORT FOR MIGRATORY WATERFOWL REFUGES IN DISTRICT # 2.

Period - November 1, 1939 to January 31, 1940.

WEATHER - As far as everything is concerned, the lack of snow has been very good (for work that had to be done, due to the lack of snow we have mild weather it is believed and the game birds and animals are able to get food) except we should have at least three feet of snow before the end of the winter so the melting snow will help furnish water for the dry soil. There are about 3" of dry snow in the Ardoch Refuge locality. The warm weather during the last half of January, melted about half of the dry snow that has been received so far this winter.

WILDLIFE - At the close of the hunting season, there were about 2500 ducks on the Ardoch Refuge. At the end of January 1940 there are about 300 ducks (mostly mallards) on the Refuge. At Christmas, there were about 1000 ducks on the Refuge. The ducks stay in the open springs during the day time and in the late after-noon they fly south west about 15 miles and feed in the grain fields. It is possible for them to get grain in the fields because there is very little snow.

Owls, falcons, mink and foxes were rather hard on the ducks after Christmas. Two snowy owls stayed around and on the Refuge up until about the last week of January. The animals and birds took some of the ducks. After a couple of light snows, Mr. Nelson, Patrolman at Lake Ardoch (also on District No. 2.) stated that he noticed mink and fox tracks around the open springs and found parts of ducks that the animals or birds of prey had killed to eat.

A number of trapping permits have been issued by Patrolman Nelson for trapping on privately owned land on Lake Ardoch Refuge. The Agent at Sullys Hill Preserve has issued one trapping permit for trapping on Pioneer Lake Refuge and one trapping permit for trapping on Lac Aux Mortes Refuge.

Is there a policy regarding trapping on cormorant refuges?
TAD

REFUGE DEVELOPMENT - All of the posting has been completed on Kellys Slough and Billings Lake Refuges and all of the signs were put in good condition. About a fourth of the posting on Lake Ardoch Refuge has been completed. In order that there would be no question as to where the boundary line was located at on some of the Refuges where it was hard to see far, extra signs were put up. Early last winter, fire protection was done around the cabins at Buffalo Lake, Lac Aux Mortes Refuge and Lake Ardoch Refuges. No fire protection work was done at Johnson Slough around the cabin because the area around the cabin inside the yard fence was bare and the land for rods around the cabin area had been grazed bare as a person's hand. A storm shed was made for the cabin at Ardoch to keep the north wind from blowing into the cabin so much and a chimney was built up in the garage so some heat could be had there for work and for starting the trucks.

The ice was removed from around the center pier of the Ardoch control gates and work done getting the gates loose so they will be ready to paint as soon as the material has been received. ~~Two~~ NYA Boys helped the Patrolman with the work that has been done on the Refuges (Ardoch, Billings and Kellys Slough).

A crew of 3 WPA men have been working on Lake Ardoch hauling rock, rip-rapping and doing other work. It is necessary for rocks to be hauled for a distance of 25 to 35 miles. Rock are very scarce in the Ardoch locality. The lake is now drained dry and the men are rip-rapping with the rock from the base of the dam to within about a foot of the top of the earthen dam. It is hoped that all of the upstream side of the earthen dam south of the control gates can be rip-rapped before the water starts to fill up the lake area again.

Public Relations - Many visitors visited Ardoch Refuge during the nice weather last November. The people around the Lake Ardoch Refuge did not feel

feel friendly towards the Biological Survey early last fall because the lake had not been drained dry each fall so that fresh water would come in and furnish fresh water for their stock each spring. The water becomes more salty ~~if~~ ^{if} the lake is not drained each fall. The springs continue to run salty water into the lake all of the time and more of the salt collects in the lake if the lake is not drained each fall. Water for stock is scarce for the stock below the control gates and the farmers want fresh water to flow below the dam for the stock and then it will not damage the soil so much. Mr. Nelson drained the lake late last fall without ~~without~~ causing damage to the farm land by flooding any of the land.

The following Biological Survey officials visited the Ardoch Refuge during the period : Mr. F. C. Gillett, Omaha, Mr. Hall of Des Moines, Iowa and Mr. Roy N. Bach , Bismarck. Refuge Manager, Parker visited the Lake Ardoch Refuge on Jan. 25th.

Almost all of this report has been concerning Lake Ardoch Refuge because there is the only Easement Refuge where work is being done this winter, the Patrolman of District # 2 lives in the cabin there and has been doing posting and other work on that refuge and the refuges near it. We hope to have some interesting pictures to go with this report at the end of the next period if possible. We need a kodak to make it possible to get the pictures when it is possible to take them.

With the kindest of regards, I am;

Very truly yours,

Wesley D. Parker
U. S. Game Management Agent.

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The following Biological Survey officials visited the Ardooch Refuge during the period : Mr. F. C. Gillett, Omaha, Mr. Hall of Des Moines, Iowa and Mr. Roy M. Bach, Bismarck. Refuge Manager, Parker visited the Lake Ardooch Refuge on Jan. 25th.

Almost all of this report has been concerning Lake Ardooch Refuge because there is the only Easement Refuge where work is being done this winter, the Patrolman of District 4 S lives in the cabin there and has been doing posting and other work on that refuge and the refuges near it. We hope to have some interesting pictures to go with this report at the end of the next period if possible. We need a Kodak to make it possible to get the pictures when it is possible to take them.

With the kindest of regards, I am;



UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF BIOLOGICAL SURVEY
OFFICE OF REGIONAL DIRECTOR

NORTH DAKOTA
SOUTH DAKOTA
NEBRASKA
KANSAS

406 Post Office Building
Omaha, Nebraska
November 20, 1939

Chief, Bureau of Biological Survey
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

There is enclosed herewith quarterly narrative
report for the period ending October 31, 1939, for the
Sullys Hill Game Preserve, North Dakota, submitted by
Wesley D. Parker, Refuge Manager.

Very truly yours,

Burnie Maurek, Regional Director

By

F. C. Gillett

F. C. Gillett
Refuge Administrative Assistant

Enc.

*copy
sent to
Mr. Lammiman*



REGION NO. 3

NORTH DAKOTA
SOUTH DAKOTA
NEBRASKA
KANSAS

IN REPLY REFER TO

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF BIOLOGICAL SURVEY
OFFICE OF REGIONAL DIRECTOR

406 Post Office Building
Omaha, Nebraska
November 20, 1939

Chief, Bureau of Biological Survey
Washington, D. C.

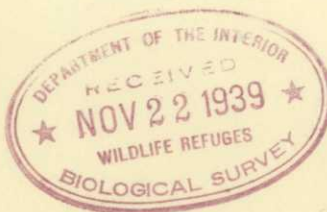
Dear Sir:

There is enclosed herewith quarterly narrative
report for the period ending October 31, 1939, for the
Sullys Hill Game Preserve, North Dakota, submitted by
Wesley D. Parker, Refuge Manager.

Very truly yours,

Burnie Marwick, Regional Director
By *[Signature]*
F. C. Gillett
Refuge Administrative Assistant

Enc.



IN REPLY REFER TO

REGION No. 9

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF BIOLOGICAL SURVEY
OFFICE OF REGIONAL DIRECTOR

NORTH DAKOTA
SOUTH DAKOTA
NEBRASKA
KANSAS

406 Post Office Building
Omaha, Nebraska
November 20, 1939

Chief, Bureau of Biological Survey
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

There is enclosed herewith quarterly narrative
report for the period ending October 31, 1939, for the
Sullys Hill Game Preserve, North Dakota, submitted by
Wesley D. Parker, Refuge Manager.

Very truly yours,

Burnie Maurek, Regional Director
By

F. C. Gillett
Refuge Administrative Assistant

Enc.



KANSAS
NEBRASKA
SOUTH DAKOTA
NORTH DAKOTA

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

BUREAU OF BIOLOGICAL SURVEY

OFFICE OF REGIONAL DIRECTOR

406 Post Office Building
Omaha, Nebraska
November 20, 1939

Chief, Bureau of Biological Survey

Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

There is enclosed herewith quarterly narrative
report for the period ending October 31, 1939, for the
Sullys Hill Game Preserve, North Dakota, submitted by

Wesley D. Parker, Refuge Manager.

Very truly yours,

Burnie Munroe, Regional Director
By

F. C. Gillette
Refuge Administrative Assistant

Enc.



NARRATIVE REPORT

SULLYS HILL NATIONAL GAME PRESERVE

AUGUST 1, 1939 - OCTOBER 31, 1939.

By - Wesley D. Parker, Agent
and Erwin Torkildson, Laborer Patrolman.
Sullys Hill National Game Preserve,
Ft. Totten, N. Dak.

TRANSMITTED BY REGIONAL OFFICE

11-20-39

jwc

NARRATIVE REPORT FOR THE SULLYS HILL NATIONAL GAME PRESERVE.

Period - August 1, 1939 - October 31, 1939.

WEATHER - As shown by the information below, we are not so far short of the normal rain fall that has been received during past years when we received plenty of moisture, but for the past few years we have been so short on moisture that with almost no surplus moisture in the soil, this locality is much in need of more moisture. Below the amount of moisture that has been received during the past three months has been given and other information concerning the weather which was received from the Devils Lake U. S. Weather Bureau:

	Normal Rainfall.	Received.	Short	Plus or Ahead.
August	2.48	2.76		.28
September	1.63	.50	1.13	
October	1.25	.68	.57	

For the year beginning Jan. 1, 1939 to the end of October 1939 we are short of the normal amount of moisture that we should have received by -2.57 inches. All or almost all growing plants and trees did grow fairly well until about the middle of July when their growing slackened up and after a few weeks their growth stopped about the last of August. As has been shown above, this locality has received a fair amount of moisture for the 10 months period if there had of been plenty of moisture in the soil but since the soil was very much short on moisture, the last two months have been very dry. The crops dried up that were late and the pastures and many trees have died.

Wild Life - Enough moisture was received so the grasses in the pasture made a good growth. The latter part of the summer as the weather become

dry and was already hot, the grass in the open and on the south slopes just dried up but much of the grass in the timber and on the north slopes remained green all summer. None of the game animals have been slaughtered at this Preserve yet but since they all look to be in extra fine condition and the grazing has been very good, it is believed that they are in fine condition.

At the beginning of the quarter there were 20 buffalo, 31 elk, 15 white-tail deer and 19 Canada Geese (one young goose now counted). As near as we know at the end of the period or on Oct. 31, 1939 there were the same number of elk and deer. There are 19 geese here. The buffalo ~~herd~~^{has} been enlarged by two fall calves. We now have 22 buffalo. It may be hard for the two young calves to live over winter unless they are extra strong. During the past years, fall buffalo calves have been raised on the Preserve and lived over winter.

Ten buffalo and 20 elk are to be disposed of from this Preserve during the next few weeks. Since the buffalo graze during the summer and other months when there is little or no snow on the ground, the grasses in the open where they graze most will have a chance to drop their seeds more and the sod become made up more of grass and grass roots. By the disposal of a number of the elk, the feeding on the grass will be relieved some but the best help to the area will be to the shrubs, sprouts and small trees that the elk feed on.

Last winter about 60 acres in the north east part of the elk and buffalo pasture was fenced to keep out the animals. In this area the trees were almost all cut off of about a 4 acre plot or patch and five other areas of about 1 acre each. Also there were some trails made around and across the area. On the trails where the stumps were left and the areas where the trees were cut down the oak sprouts have made a good growth of about 26", ash from 4' to 6', basswood about the same as the ash. Other sprouts have made a good

growth in the fenced experimental area even though the growing season has been dry. Outside the fenced off Experimental area, the trees were cut off of four other areas of about an acre each. The trees that were cut down were basswood, elm, oak, a few boxelder and a few other kinds of trees. The elk and deer (but the elk did most of the eating) have kept the sprouts eaten down (over all of the cut over areas that were not fenced) just as close as they could eat them on the basswood, the ash have been allowed to grow some in places to about a height of 8 inches, the elm have been kept eaten down and the boxelder were not eaten at all or very little.

If the WPA continue to work on the Preserve this winter, the plans are now to fence off about 60 acres more and cut the trees down in the fenced area in about ^{one} 20 acre patches. As much as possible, ash, oak, elm and basswood trees will be cut. The wood will be sold (all that can be sold). According to plans outlined in the Regional Office, the sprouts will be allowed to grow for about three or more years before the elk and deer are allowed to feed on them. Then some of the sprouts will be big enough so they will continue to grow (that is some will be high enough so the elk and deer will not browse on them and cause them to die) and make trees. The new cut over areas must be fenced or the elk and deer will not allow them to make any growth at all but will keep them eaten down. It has been noticed in the fenced off area that the June berry bushes and choke-cherry shrubs are coming up here and there. The plans are to set out more of these shrubs if we have the help and enough rain so they will grow in the fenced off areas.

REFUGE DEVELOPMENT - For this report period there were three WPA men working during part of August and the number increased to nine during the last part of the month. About the same number worked here during September and 14 during October. The men have hauled some poles for posts out of the pasture,

Made more straight three curves in the roads in the pasture, made black 3/4 of a mile of fire guard just inside the outside fence by removing the stumps, removing the roots and plowing up the sod and working it over with the small blade and Fordson tractor, about 3/4 of a mile was graveled and about 600 yards of gravel hauled, work done on a lawn fence around the cottage, repaired the shoulders on 1/4 a mile of road and work has been done making the outside fence higher at places where the snow drifts during the winter.

PUBLIC RELATIONS - August and September are the months in this locality that the country people are busy harvesting their crops and the business men are staying close to their stores and shops to furnish what the farmers may wish to purchase and for those reasons we do not have so many visitors during the last part of the summer and the early fall period. The following visitors were here during the period:

August 660 cars and 3,037 visitors. Sept. 390 cars and 1,891 visitors. *etc*

October 97 cars and 442 visitors.

3037

1891

442

5370

The following government ~~other~~ visitors were to the Preserve:

Mr. A. C. Elmer, Assistant Chief, Division of Wildlife Refuges.

Mr. F. C. Gillett, Associate Refuge Manager.

Mr. Sheldon Dart from the Upper Souris Bird Refuge,

Mr. Wm. Spriggs, WPA Engineer.

Mr. Lewis Knowles, Predatory Animal and Rodent Control.

Mr. Lawrence Cheney, Predatory Animal and Rodent Control.

Economic Uses - Down and surplus poles and logs fit only for fuel have sold. Crooked and small ash poles were sold at \$2.50 per load 3' x 4' x 15' and soft wood of same size load were sold at \$1.00 each. The soft wood was aspen, basswood and boxelder mainly.

Other Items - Sullys Hill Patrolman hauled about 30 tons of from the

lake bottom hay meadow where the snow drifts during the winter and stacked it in the corral in the pasture, has helped do work on outside fence where snow drifts, serviced the ~~XXXX~~ trucks, looked after visitors, done fire protection work, patrolled the fences and other work. I helped do this work when other work would allow time for me to help. Also some work has been done on the capturing corral so the elk should be captured with less trouble.

About the 20th. of September the weather become cold and the water line (that furnishes water in the picnic grounds and the buildings) ^{was} made ready for freezing weather by removing the water from tanks, bowls and taking valves apart where ever it was necessary.

There are no pictures to go in with this report because nothing new has been noticed to take pitures of that have not already had pictures taken of and sent into the office.

With the kindest of regards, I am;

Very truly yours,

Wesley D. Parker.

U. S. Game Management Agent.

Original & two copies
mailed to Omaha.

P. S. As has been explained in detail, this has been a dry fall as far as receiving moisture is concerned. There is but very little fresh water in this locality for migratory birds. About 250 to 350 ducks ^{birds?} have been staying on the small lake in the picnic grounds where grain is put out for them about three times a week. We have seen only four flocks of geese flying over this area. Much more of the dry or just mud lake bottom of Devils Lake has showed up during the last few months. The rest of the water area is shallow and has much alkali in it. For those reasons we have had but very few migratory birds in this locality this fall.

NARRATIVE REPORT
MIGRATORY WATERFOWL EASEMENT REFUGES
DISTRICT #2 NORTH DAKOTA
October 1939.

By- Wesley D. Parker, U. S. Agent, Sullys Hill Preserve
and Nelius B. Nelson, Laborer Patrolman,
Lake Ardoch Refuge, Ardoch, N. Dak.

NARRATIVE REPORT FOR MIGRATORY WATERFOWL REFUGES In DISTRICT #2.

FOR THE PERIOD OF October 1939.

Explanatory Information - On September 29th. information was received from the Regional Office at Omaha to the effect that the responsibility for maintenance, administration and law enforcement work on the Migratory Waterfowl Refuges in District #2 would ^{be} turned over to the U. S. Game Management Agent at the Sullys Hill National Game Preserve, N. Dak. On October 3, 1939, Nelius B. Nelson reported at the Sullys Hill Preserve and was given instructions as to what his work would be in connection with the maintenance, administration and law enforcement work on the refuges.

On the morning of October 4, 1939⁹, Nelius B. Nelson, Laborer Patrolman and Wesley D. Parker, U. S. Game Management Agent, Sullys Hill Preserve, left the Sullys Hill Preserve in a government pickup truck and visited the Silver Lake Bird Refuge and Lac Aux Mortes Refuge. The dam on the first named refuge and the signs were especially noticed. At the second named refuge, the signs and buildings were inspected and notes were taken as to the work that was to be done for fire protection around the buildings. There was no water ~~in~~ on either area. A number of pheasants and sharp tailed grouse were noticed on the Lac Aux Mortes Refuge.

Patrolman Nelson and I stayed all night in Towner N. Dak. and on the morning of Oct. 5 we left for Bismarck ^{where} we arrived at the Survey office at 11:00 A. M. We attended the meeting held in the Survey Office by Mr. Maurek, Gillett and Childers. We received much wanted and needed information as to the work we were to do on the Easement Refuges and how to go about doing especially the Law Enforcement Work.

Nelius B. Nelson and I left Bismarck at 10:00 P.M. of the 5th. and arrived at Towner, N. Dak. at 2:00 A. M. on morning of the 6th. On our way back to the

Sullys Hill Preserve we inspected the Pleasant Lake and Buffalo Lake Refuges. The Pleasant Lake Bird Refuge had no water on it ~~at~~ that could be noticed any place. In other words it was a dry area. At the Buffalo Lake area there was about an acre of what looked to be fresh water. There were a number of ducks on the water resting and feeding. We inspected the cabin, grounds, trees that had been set out and the dam. We found all in good shape but fire protection work was needed around the cabin area.

On 8th. of October, Patrolman Nelson and I visited and patrolled Kellys Slough and some of Ardoch Lake Refuge. We saw about 200 Canada Geese out feeding in a field on ^{Kellys Slough} the ~~Refuge~~ and 450 ducks on ~~the~~ the water area. The water was running over the spillway to a debth of about $1\frac{1}{2}$ "'. This showed up to be a good and much used Refuge by the birds. We saw some of the Ardoch Lake Refuge on the 8th. On the morning of the 9th. we visited and inspected the Ardoch Lake Refuge again. There was much water above the dam and one small gate was open to allow the surplus water to flow on below the dam. There were many flocks of ducks on the water area. We could not tell how many. Along about day light as we were patrolling north of the area, two large flocks of Canada Geese were noticed flying rather low to the north east out to feed.

We left Ardoch Lake Refuge at 9:20 A. M. During the day we visited Pioneer Refuge, Lambs Lake, Prairie Lake, Little Goose and Sibley Lake. At the Pioneer Lake there were about 30 ducks on the about 5 acres of water area above the dam. There was some water below the dam which looked as if the water was seeping through (some) the shale & gravel mixed with clay what had been used to make the dam. The fence was in good shape around this dam and many of the trees were growing that had been set out on the west side of the water area. Lambs Lake Refuge was next visited. It was dry. The dam and spillway were in

good shape as far as could be decided by looking them over. This area had no water on it. There were some gophers here and there near the dam. Prairie Refuge was visited and dam inspected. There was no water on this area. It may have water in it next spring if we have a good snow. Then Little ^{goose} Refuge was visited. There were about 5 acres of water area on this Refuge and about 30 ducks on the water. The water was about 4 feet below the spillway. This seems to be a good refuge although there is not such a large water area on it. A hunter that we visited with stated that geese flew away from there during the early morning. We next visited the Sibley Lake Area. There was no water on it that we could notice. We noticed where some one had been pushing weeds and hay on the north side of willow bushes to form bird shelters. It is supposed that the NYA Observer was doing this work. It was night soon after we left this Refuge and we stayed all night in Tolna, N. Dak.

On the 10th. of October we visited Johnson Bird Refuge and Wood Lake Marsh. Johnson Lake Refuge was all dry. We visited the Cabin area and crossed the marsh area since it was all dry. We could not get in the cabin since we did not as yet have a key for the door. Some work should be done to cut the brush that is in the yard and clean up inside the cabin. There was no danger of fire around this cabin because there was no grass to burn. We stopped at and drove over some of the Wood Lake Marsh. The dam and spillway were in good shape. There were only a few ducks on the water. This is a very good if small refuge area. I have been here in the past when there were about 3000 or more ducks on the water. After visiting this Refuge we returned to the Sullys Hill Preserve. We have visited all of the Refuges in this area but Billings, Rose and Court Lake or Minnewastena. We will inspect the three last named areas as soon as time is found to do so.

From 11th. to 13th. Patrolman, Nelson did fire protection work around the buildings at Lac Aux Mortes. As good a job was done cleaning up around this building area as could be done with just hand tools. I visited this area again after the work was done. At and around the Buffalo Lake Refuge buildings, fire protection work was done from Oct. 19th. to 21st. and a load of old lumber and wire hauled away from near the cabin to the Sullys Hill Preserve.

The patrolman has been doing patrol work at and around Ardoch and Kellys Slough as much as possible on Saturday after-noons and Sundays and other times also. Patrolman took up his residence in the Lake Ardoch Cabin on Oct. 14th. He will patrol the Ardoch Lake Refuge, Kellys Slough Refuge, do some jobs of work that should be done at the Ardoch Lake Cabin, drain the ardoch lake down when it should be done, put up new signs on the refuge as far as the signs and posts will go that we have on hand and contact the NYA boys.

Patrolman Nelson has informed me that the level of Lake Ardoch has been lowered some so that it will be possible to lower the lake level after the birds have gone or the hunting season has closed without flooding the land below the dam. The birds leave this Districe #2 when ever the weather becomes cold and ice freezes over the water. During the last week in October the number of ducks and geese on Ardoch and Kellys Slough have increased. At one time there were about 5500 ducks and and 21 swan on the Lake on the 26th. of October and 600 geese on the Lake on 29th. Many birds are also making use of the Kellys Slough Refuge.

Patrolman Nelson has been using the Sullys Hill Preserve Chevrolet pickup truck in connection with the easement refuge work and there is no government car or truck left for me to make other trips to the Refuges or I would do some more inspection work on and around the Refuges as time is found to get away from the work at the Sullys Hill Preserve. It is expected that the new pickup

truck for the easement work will be here after a time and then the Sullys Hill truck will be available for use on the Sullys Hill Preserve and the Easement Work and the visits that I will make to the Easement Refuges.

There is much work to do on the different Refuges putting up new posts where they are needed and new signs. On many of the signs the goose has faded out and the letters are gone or very dim. These will be replaced with new posts where needed and faded signs with new signs as soon as possible after we received the needed supplies.

On and around the Ardoch and Kellys Slough more rain has been received than in the rest of District #2 it is believed. In the Devils Lake Locality, we should have received 1.25" moisture in October but received .68" or for the month we are short .57" of moisture. For the months of August, September and October we are short -2.57" of moisture and there is almost no moisture in the soil within a number feet of the surface.

We have no pictures to send in with this report because we have not had the time and the equipment to be able to take the pictures that we would want to take for this report. During this winter it has been planned that Patrolman ^{and I} Nelson will figure the supplies that we may need next spring (but get them this winter if possible), plan the work that will have to be done patrolling the area when the snow begins to melt and the birds come back north and then be ready for the real easement work. Most of the Refuge areas in District #2 can become places that will be a real help to the migratory birds but we must have much rain for them to be of real value to the birds.

With the kindest of regards, I am;

Very truly yours,

Wesley B. Parker.
U. S. Game Management Agent.

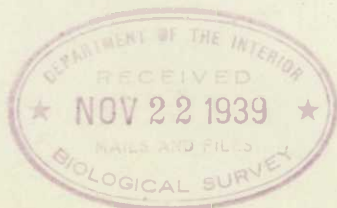
2 copies mailed to
Omaha Office.

P. S.

Hunters were numerous around the Lake Ardoch Refuge and Kellys Slough. They reported that the hunting was good. Patrolman Nelson informed me that he checked the equipment of about 50 hunters and found only one that was not properly equipped. His shotgun was not plugged so it would hold only three shells. A report has been made concerning this violation in the usual way. Violations are few in the Ardoch and Kellys Slough area since there are also two state wardens in the locality.



P. S. Hunters were numerous around the Lake Ardoch Refuge and Kelly's Slough. They reported that the hunting was good. Patrolman Nelson informed me that he checked the equipment of about 50 hunters and found only one that was not properly equipped. His shotgun was not plugged so it would hold only three shells. A report has been made concerning this violation in the usual way. Violations are few in the Ardoch and Kelly's Slough area since there are also two state wardens in the locality.





NARRATIVE REPORT

SULLYS HILL NATIONAL GAME PRESERVE

May 1, 1939 - July 31, 1939.

By - Wesley D. Parker,
Sullys Hill National Game Preserve,
Ft. Totten, N. Dak.

R.N.S.

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NARRATIVE REPORT FOR THE SULLYS HILL NATIONAL GAME PRESERVE.

Period - May 1, 1939 to July 31, 1939.

WEATHER - At the beginning of this spring we were very short on moisture in the ground. There was no moisture in the top soil last fall and for that reason the ground did not freeze during the winter. It has been so dry during the past years that many of the oak trees are now dead on the slopes. Before this year many of the basswood trees were dead. We find that the ash stand the dry weather the best. During the past three months we have received the following amount of moisture:

	Normal Rainfall.	Received.	Short	Plus or ahead
May	2.03	1.54	.49	
June	3.56	4.65		1.09
July	2.57	2.04	.53	

So far this spring and summer we have had enough moisture just for the needs of the plants and growing things just as the moisture was received but we received our last rain on the night of July 6th. and the morning of July the Seventh. Since that time we have only received sprinkles. The grass is commencing to dry up and the cultivated crops are commencing to show the effects of the lack of moisture. Due to the fair amount of rain that was received the earlier part of the summer, there is plenty of hay or forage. The grain crops are commencing to dry up. The weather information was received from the Devils Lake Weather Bureau.

Wild Life- During this quarter there were 22 buffalo. One yearling bull buffalo was sold to be eaten (slaughtered on the Preserve) and one died due to an accident as was reported. There are now at the close of the Narrative Period; 20 buffalo, 31 elk, 15 white-tail deer and 18 Canada Geese.

During the period, the buffalo herd has been increased by five calves and it has been estimated that there were 8 elk calves and two young deer. We have seen one young deer and a number of very nice elk calves but we have not been able to count the elk or deer due to the thick timber and brush.

The grazing has been extra good this year although we have not had as much moisture as is classed as the normal rain fall. Due to the lack of moisture during the last of July, the grass in the open has commenced to dry up. The buffalo are in such good shape that there are chunks of fat on each side of their tails except a few of the older animals that are not in such good shape.

The raccoons destroyed a number of duck nests and bothered the geese so much in the duck yard that we raised no young ducks and only one gosling. Two of the animals were caught in the duck yard and killed and another one was caught outside by a toe but he got away. We will have to trap more of them this fall and next spring in order that some ducks and geese can be raised. These animals seem to have come into the Preserve during the last year or so where they are protected. The hunting and trapping season on them is also closed on them outside the Preserve by the state. We will do the best that can possibly be done to thin them out this fall and early next spring.

REFUGE DEVELOPMENT - A total of 20 WPA men have been working on the Preserve during July. For a time during June there were 26 men working here. But all of this number of men were not working steady. There were only about 13 men working during May and first $\frac{1}{2}$ of June and all of these men were not on duty all of the time. During May, June and July the following work was done on the PRESERVE: 300 yards of soil were hauled to fill in around the Patrolman's

*Why not give surplus
to the state for restocking R.A.P.*

Cottage; the drainage field for the cottage was completed (this required the digging of a ditch about seven feet deep, 2 feet wide, filling up part of the way with gravel and laying the ~~pipe~~ tile in the gravel as there was clay at this place and then filling in the ditch); 40% of the plumbing was completed during the period for the cottage and light fixtures of the onamental type installed; A new gravel pit was opened up as the gravel was not so good in the old pit; $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile of road and trail were graveled; 1 mile of a fire guard was made black just inside the outside fence; stumps were removed from $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile of fire guard; the barn and Agent's house were painted except some screens and storm windows for the house and other jobs were done.

No development work has been done with maintenance funds because we have had no funds for such work but about 4 miles of road were bladed so the road would be in better ~~xxx~~ shape to travel over and would make a better fire guard; at least 50 tons of very fine hay has been stacked in excellent shape without rain on it to bleach it out; a fire guard made around the stacks that needed a guard; many thousands of visitors looked after; the picnic ^{grounds} and water system kept in good shape and much other maintenance work.

PUBLIC RELATIONS AND VISITORS TO THE PRESERVE- Mr. Leo Childers, Federal Agent, Mr. Wm. Spriggs, WPA Engineer, Mr. Curtis Stenehjem, Biological Survey Engineer, Mr. Martin Myhre, N. Dak. State Game Warden and Mr. Seth Low from the Des Lacs Bird Refuge were to the Sullys Hill Preserve on official business during the period. There were the following other visitors to the Preserve: Also Mr. F. C. Gillett visited the Preserve on May 4, 1939.

May	728 cars.	3497 ✓ visitors.
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June	905 cars.	4032 ✓ visitors.
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July	<u>1448</u> cars.	<u>6207</u> ✓ Visitors.
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3081	"	13736	A total of cars & visitors.
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Trips have been made into the buffalo and elk pasture with many cars and visitors. No smoking is allowed in the pasture by visitors or men working in the pasture. The visitors are always much pleased to see the buffalo. This Preserve has a very fine herd of buffalo. The bull that was received from Wind Cave Preserve a few years ago is a large and fine animal. They are all fat and slick except an old cow or two.

There are no pictures to go in with this report because the scenes that would have to be sent in would be the same or similar to those that have been sent in to the office in the past.

With the kindest of regards, I am;

Very truly yours,

Wesley D. Parker.

U. S. Game Management Agent.

Three copies sent to

Omaha.



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cars and visitors. No smoking is allowed in the pasture by visitors or
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have been sent in to the office in the past.
With the kindest of regards, I am;

Very truly yours,

Wesley A. Barker

U. S. Game Management Agent.

Three copies sent to

Omaha.



TRANSMITTED BY REGIONAL OFFICE

NARRATIVE REPORT

SULLYS HILL NATIONAL GAME PRESERVE

FEBRUARY 1, 1939 to APRIL 30, 1939.

By - Wesley D. Parker,
Sullys Hill National Game Preserve,
Ft. Totten, N. Dak.



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TRANSMITTED BY REGIONAL OFFICE

NARRATIVE REPORT

GULLYS HILL NATIONAL GAME PRESERVE
FEBRUARY 1, 1939 to APRIL 30, 1939.

By - Wesley D. Parker,
Gullys Hill National Game Preserve,
Ft. Totten, N. Dak.



May 18 1939
W.D.P.

NARRATIVE REPORT FOR THE SULLYS HILL NATIONAL GAME PRESERVE.

Period - February 1, 1939 to April 30, 1939.

WEATHER - We had some snow and the weather was very cold during the month of February. On a number of mornings the thermometer showed the temperature to be 30 degrees below zero and on some of the mornings it was still colder. Quite a few inches of snow were received during February but it was dry snow and there was but little moisture in it. The snow almost all melted in three days during the last part of March. There was not so much moisture in the snow, the ground was dry and did not freeze during the winter and the snow water run but very little but soaked into the ground as it melted. The moisture that was received during the three month period is as follows: (Some of the moisture received during April was in the form of rain.)

	Normal.	Amount Received.	Amount above or below normal received.
February	.50	.36	.14 below
March	.78	.19	.59 "
April	1.52	1.05	.47 "

The information concerning the amount of moisture received is according to the Devils Lake Weather Bureau. The normal amount of moisture (received during the three months as shown to the left) is below normal, .14" for February, .59" for March and .47" for the month of April. For the three month period we are short of receiving the normal amount of moisture by 1.2". There is almost no moisture in the soil near the surface. All growing trees, shrubs and other growing things are commencing to grow very slowly due to the lack of moisture. Unless we have some cold wet weather the hoppers and in places the crickets are going to do much damage this summer. There are many eggs to hatch soon.

WILD LIFE - On April 30, 1939 there were on the Sullys Hill Game

Preserve the following number of game animals; 17 buffalo, 23 elk and 13 white tail deer. There are also 18 Canada geese and 24 mallard ducks. These birds have the feathers clipped on one wing. The buffalo are in very good condition for this time of the year. The deer and elk that have been noticed at a short distance were in good shape. The wild geese have made three nests and are setting on the eggs now.

In February one 1938 female deer was found dead due to some unknown cause. In March one mature buck deer was killed by another buck deer. In March the 21 year old bull buffalo was killed by the younger herd bull buffalo. In February one mature cow elk and one mature bull elk were slaughtered and sold to a Cafe owner in Minneapolis. During April one 1938 bull buffalo was slaughtered and sold to be used to eat.

Just before the snow melted in March, hay was put in the feed racks and in piles on the ground for the animals to eat but since the snow went off of the ground soon after the hay was put out, the animals have eaten but very little of the hay. A number of experimental openings were made in the pasture during the last half of the winter and the brush was piled up for the elk and deer to feed on. (The elk and deer cleaned up most of the buds and twigs from off of the basswood limbs but it was not noticed where they had been feeding on the other brush much.)

It was noticed that the following spring birds arrived as follows:

Mar. 10, Prairie Horned Larks.	March 21, one gray marsh hawk.
Mar. 13, Juncoes near buildings.	March 24, meadow larks.
Mar. 18, One crow.	April 2, robins
Mar. 19, One Red wing blackbird.	April 3, some ducks and several flocks
Mar. 20, one flock of ducks noticed by a neighbor.	of geese flying northward.

On the evening of April 7th. many flocks of geese were noticed flying northward. On the evening of April 8th. many geese were noticed southward again. It is supposed that they found no open water and but little food and for that reason they returned to the south where both open water and food were available. Raccoon tracks were first noticed in the snow on March 23rd.

But very few ducks have been noticed in this locality so far this spring. The weather has been slow warming up though and it is believed more ducks will be noticed as it becomes warmer. It is believed that (we have noticed at least 25% more snow geese and canada geese this spring than during last spring.) The geese were all flying that were noticed and it is believed that but few of them stopped in this locality since there is but very little fresh water for them to rest on or get food from.

*see
BWM*

REFUGE DEVELOPMENT - 12 WPA men and their foreman have been on duty on the Preserve during the Period. A number of Experimental Openings of about an acre in size ^{each} have been made by cutting the green trees about two feet above the ground so the sprouts will grow up and furnish brouse for the deer and elk and also more grass will grow for the buffalo. Most of the dead trees and stubs have been removed from the picnic grounds area, fire protection work done cleaning up in the picnic grounds and a fence seven feet high built around about 60 acres in the north east corner of the buffalo and elk pasture where some experimental openings have been made. The fence is to keep the elk and deer from brouseing down the sprouts and shrubs until they have been allowed to grow for a few years. The experimental openings have been made in depressions or low places as much as possible and the sprouts should grow much each summer if we have a fair amount of moisture.

During the period 49 loads (4' x 3' x 15') of wood have been sold at \$2.50 per load and money orders for the amount sent into the Office. Also seven other loads of wood have been ordered at the same price. A few loads of aspen wood have been sold but the most that was disposed of has been of the ash and oak pole wood. Before any wood has been sold, all of the fair sized ash and oak poles that would make good posts have been sorted out and hauled to a yard where they will be kept for use on the different Refuges when they are wanted.

Public Relations and Visitors to the Preserve: Regional Director, Mr. Maurek visited the Preserve on April 3rd. Mr. Seth Low, Des Lacs Refuge was to the Preserve on April 20th. to get a gang plow. Federal Game Warden, Mr. Childers and State Game Warden, Mr. Myre were to the Preserve on Official Business on April 26, 1939. During March there were 144 visitors to the Preserve and during April there were 136 cars and 728 visitors. Most of the visitors were here during the last week of April when the weather was fair to be outside.

Wesley D. Parker

U. S. Game Management Agent,
Sullys Hill Game Preserve,
Ft. Totten, N. Dak.



An experimental opening in deer pasture showing some basswood trees that have been cut and the brush left for the deer to pick on.



A mature buck deer that has come up to the feed yard for oats.



Some of the buffalo at a pile of hay that had been put out for them to feed on.



Hay left in the corral for the elk and buffalo on Feb. 21, 1939.



Elk herd about 400 feet from the road in the pasture. The snow is was about 34" deep where the elk were standing. It can be noticed that there is almost no under brush here. Most of the trees growing in this area are bass-wood. Not much grass grows here that is good for pasture due to the shade.

wood. Not much grass growing there that is good for pasture due to the shade.
is almost no under brush here. Most of the trees growing in this area are bass-
wood about 24" deep where the oak were standing. It can be noticed that these
oak were about 400 feet from the road in the pasture. The snow is

